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SPIDER-MAN

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SPIDER-MAN®: REDEMPTION

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SPIDER-MAN: REDEMPTION

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CHAPTER THREE: CHAINS

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I WAS BORN *ELIZABETH TYNE*-- BUT IT'S A NAME I'VE COME TO HATE.

LET'S GO, TYNE--

--THE *JUDGE* IS WAITING FOR YOU.

ELIZABETH WAS WEAK. SHE WAS A VICTIM. HER LIFE WAS NOTHING BUT PAIN AND ABUSE...

...HUMILIATION AND SHAME.

YOU'RE A CELEBRITY, YOU KNOW THAT, GIRL? THEY GOT SO MANY TV CAMERAS OUT THERE WAITING FOR YOU I COULDN'T EVEN *COUNT* 'EM!

SO I BURIED ELIZABETH. THREW HER IN A GRAVE AND SHOVELLED THE DIRT OVER HER. BLOCKED HER OUT OF MY MIND AND HEART.

I MUST'VE CHANGED NAMES TWO DOZEN TIMES DURING MY YEARS ON THE RUN. NONE OF THEM REALLY MEANT ANYTHING.

THEY WERE JUST MASKS. LIES.

ELIZABETH, WHY DID YOU--

A STATEMENT, PLEASE--

--PARALLELS WITH THE MENENDEZ TRIAL--

--THAT THE MURDER OF YOUR FATHER WAS--

HOW DOES IT FEEL AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, ELIZABETH--

EXCEPT FOR ONE.

MY NAME ISN'T ELIZABETH. IT'S *JANINE*.

JANINE GODBE.

I BELIEVED IN JANINE. SHE WAS EVERYTHING I DREAMED ABOUT BEING WHEN I WAS A LITTLE GIRL: STRONG. SMART. CAPABLE. NOBODY'S VICTIM.

NOBODY'S *FOOL*.

POLICE LINE D

I *BECAME* JANINE. SHE MEANT MORE TO ME THAN ELIZABETH EVER COULD. AND I THINK THE THING THAT BROKE MY HEART MOST OF ALL THAT DAY WAS THAT I KNEW I WAS LOSING HER.

SHE WAS THE ONE BEING BURIED NOW-- WHILE ELIZABETH WAS CLAWING HER WAY UP, OUT OF THE GRAVE.

AND IF I LOST JANINE... I KNEW IT WOULD ONLY BE A MATTER OF TIME...

...UNTIL I LOST *BEN*, TOO.

THOSE *NEWSGEEKS* ARE RIDING US SO CLOSE THEY'RE GONNA PLOW RIGHT UP OUR TAILPIPE.

WRKR

POLICE

Y'D THINK THEY HAD BETTER THINGS T'PUT ON TV THAN *MORE* STORIES ABOUT MURDERIN' SCUM LIKE *HER*.

I'M WIT' YOU, *HOWIE*.

WHADDAYA SAY WE *LOSE* THE #@%&$#$#?

SOUNDS GOOD T'ME, HOWIE.

SKREEEEEEEE

POLICE

BEN REILLY WAS THE KINDEST, MOST DECENT MAN I'D EVER KNOWN. HE WAS EVERYTHING MY FATHER WASN'T. IT WAS BEN'S LOVE THAT GAVE JANINE FLESH AND BREATH.

IT WAS BEN WHO MADE ME FEEL ALIVE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE.

BUT HOW, I WONDERED, COULD HE POSSIBLY LOVE ME NOW?

MY FEAR OF LOSING HIM WASN'T *LOGICAL*: LOGIC WOULD SAY THAT A MAN WHO LOVED ME AS DEEPLY AS BEN DID WOULD *NEVER* TURN HIS BACK ON ME.

WE *DITCH* 'EM?

THEY'RE GONE WITH THE FREAKIN' WIND, *THOMAS.*

GONE WITH THE FREAKIN' *WIND.*

BUT BEN, I BELIEVED, LOVED JANINE--NOT ELIZABETH. HE DIDN'T KNOW *HER*. NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I TOLD HIM THE STORIES, HE COULD NEVER *REALLY UNDERSTAND* WHAT MY LIFE WAS LIKE THEN.

THE TRUTH IS--I COULD HARDLY UNDERSTAND IT.

DON'T YOU EVER BUY YOUR *OWN*, THOMAS? I MEAN, FOR CHRISSAKE, YER ALWAYS MOOCHIN' OFF--

HEY--Y'GOT A SMOKE FOR *ME?*

FOR YEARS, I PUSHED IT ALL DOWN. PUSHED IT AWAY.

WHAT MY FATHER WAS DOING TO ME WAS SO HORRIBLE--SO UNFATHOMABLE TO A CHILD WHO TRUSTED HER DADDY MORE THAN ANYONE ALIVE--THAT MY MIND COULDN'T PROCESS IT.

WHO THE HELL IS *THAT?!*

LOOKS LIKE A *MUMMY* IN A LEATHER JACKET!

WELL, IF HE DOESN'T GET OUTTA THE WAY HE'S GONNA BE ONE *DEAD* MUMMY!

UH... *HOWIE...?*

COULDN'T EVEN BEAR TO THINK ABOUT IT.

BUT ALONG WITH THE MEMORIES, I WAS PUSHING DOWN MY RAGE. AND ONE DAY, YEARS LATER, WHEN I'D FINALLY MANAGED TO CRAWL OUT OF THAT MONSTER'S HOUSE AND BEGIN A LIFE FOR MYSELF...

HE'S NOT *GETTIN'* OUTTA THE WAY!!

HONNKK

...THE MEMORIES CAME *ROARING UP.*

AND THE RAGE CAME ROARING WITH IT.

KAA

ZHHHH

WHERE IS SHE?

WHERE IS THAT MURDERING WITCH?!

DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME--I SAID WHERE'S ELIZABETH TYNE?!

I-IN THE BACK! IN THE BACK! JUST DON'T HURT USS UUUFF!

CHOPP!

IT WAS BEN WHO GAVE ME HOPE THAT DAY. SITTING IN THE BACK OF THE VAN, I REMEMBERED WHEN WE FIRST MET, BACK IN SALT LAKE CITY... HOW HE BEGGED ME TO GIVE MYSELF UP.

HIS FAITH IN THE LAW WAS SO STRONG THAT HE COULD NEVER BELIEVE... NOT FOR ONE SECOND... THAT I'D BE CONVICTED OF MY FATHER'S MURDER ONCE ALL THE FACTS WERE OUT.

I HELD FAST TO HIS FAITH... EVEN THOUGH THE JADED CYNIC IN ME WAS CERTAIN THAT THE MEDIA WOULD EAT ME ALIVE AND THE COURT SYSTEM WOULD CHEW UP MY BONES.

POLICE

WHAT WAS LEFT WOULD BE TOSSED INTO THE GAS CHAMBER.

RAKK!

THEN SUDDENLY IT SEEMED AS IF MY EXECUTION WOULD COME...

YOU'RE A DEAD WOMAN, TYNE.

...LONG BEFORE I ARRIVED ON DEATH ROW.

CHAK CHAKK TKOW TKOW

DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT, LADIES.

'STEADA WORRYIN' ABOUT US...YOU OUGHTA WORRY 'BOUT THAT GIRL--

THAT MAN WAS CRAZY.

"HE'S GONNA KILL HER."

SO-- WHADDAYOU THINK?

AM I A GOOD ACTOR OR WHAT?

YOU'RE AN--

HEY-- WHAT'D I DO?

IDIOT!

YOU KIDNAPPED ME! YOU THREATENED TO KILL ME!

ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?!

WUMP

DON'T TELL ME YOU DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS ME!

It was hard **ENOUGH** breaking the law like that. Going against everything I was raised to believe in. But when I realized that I'd **SCARED** her so--

I THOUGHT YOU REMEMBERED THIS GET UP FROM SALT LAKE. AND I THOUGHT FOR **SURE** YOU'D RECOGNIZE MY VOICE.

IT DIDN'T SOUND LIKE YOU, BEN. IT SOUNDED LIKE...LIKE THAT MANIAC **KAINE**. I THOUGHT--

OH, GOD, SWEETIE--I'M SO SORRY.

I JUST FIGURED IF I THREATENED YOU IN FRONT OF WITNESSES, NO ONE WOULD **EVER** THINK THAT YOU WERE *IN* ON THIS.

It was no small decision, deciding to break Janine out. I was feeling confused, **GUILTY**. And a little ashamed.

BUT I **WASN'T** IN ON IT. I HAD NO IDEA YOU'D DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS, BEN...IT ISN'T **LIKE** YOU TO--

WHAT'RE YOU SAYING? THAT I SHOULD'VE **LEFT** YOU THERE?

NO. **NO**--THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M SAYING. I **LOVE** YOU. THE ONLY PLACE ON EARTH WHERE I'M HAPPY IS BY YOUR SIDE. IT'S JUST THAT--

NOT ANOTHER WORD, JANINE. WE'RE LEAVING. GETTING OUT OF THIS CITY...OUT OF THIS *COUNTRY* IF WE HAVE TO--

But Janine was my life. She was **EVERYTHING** to me. She'd already been taken away from me **ONCE**. And nothing--not the police, not that lunatic Kaine...

--AND STARTING OVER.

...was going to take her away from me **AGAIN**.

I SHOULD HAVE BEEN FEELING PRIDE. *SATISFACTION.*

AFTER ALL, WASN'T *I* THE ONE WHO LURED JANINE BACK INTO REILLY'S LIFE, WHO GAVE HIM HOPE AGAIN...

...ONLY TO TEAR IT OUT OF HIS HANDS BY TIPPING THE POLICE OFF TO HER WHEREABOUTS?

HADN'T MY RECENT MIND-GAMES AND MANIPULATIONS CHIPPED AWAY AT REILLY'S SENSE OF SELF...

...DRIVING HIM TO ACTIONS THAT MADE HIM AS MUCH A CRIMINAL AS I WAS?

AHHHRRR!!

IT WAS IMPORTANT TO ME THAT HE SEE IT... THAT HE *REALIZE* HOW MUCH *ALIKE* WE WERE...

...BEFORE THE GAME WAS ENDED.

YET AS I TUMBLED FROM THAT ROOFTOP--EVERY NERVE-ENDING ON FIRE FROM THE CELLULAR DEGENERATION THAT WAS KILLING ME... THAT MY SPECIALLY-DESIGNED SUIT COULD SLOW BUT NEVER STOP--IT WASN'T MY *PAIN* THAT MADE ME SCREAM.

IT WAS MY SHAME.

SHAME AT WHAT I'D DONE TO JANINE. NOT JUST THEN, BUT ALL THOSE YEARS BEFORE IN SANTA CRUZ.

"SHE'S SUFFERED ENOUGH, KAINE." THAT'S WHAT REILLY'D SAID TO ME A FEW NIGHTS BEFORE. "YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE, SHOULD *UNDERSTAND* THAT."

AND I DID. JANINE *HAD* SUFFERED ENOUGH. IN HER OWN WAY SHE WAS AS MUCH AN OUTCAST, AS MUCH A PARIAH, AS I WAS.

BUT MAYBE THAT'S WHY, I THOUGHT, IT HAS TO BE THIS WAY.

SKUDE

MAYBE THAT'S WHY MY FATE IS AS BOUND TO HERS...

...AS TO REILLY'S.

REILLY--WHOSE CELLS HAD GIVEN ME *LIFE*. WHO GAVE MY EXISTENCE FORM AND MEANING. HE WAS EVERYTHING I *DESPISED*.

BUT HE WAS ALSO--AND I COULD NO LONGER HIDE THIS TRUTH FROM MYSELF--THE EMBODIMENT OF EVERYTHING I WANTED TO *BE*--AND NEVER *COULD*. BECAUSE I WAS JUST A *CLONE*... A FAILED EXPERIMENT...

...AND *HE* WAS A *MAN*.

A MAN WHO'D FACED ALL THE HARDSHIPS LIFE COULD OFFER--AND TRIUMPHED OVER THEM.

I'D ALWAYS LOATHED REILLY'S ADHERENCE TO IDEALS, *LAUGHED* AT IT.

...NO...

NO--I WON'T *WEAR* THIS ANY MORE!

I WON'T--

AND HE'D TRIUMPHED WITH HIS HUMANITY, HIS ESSENTIAL DECENCY, INTACT.

YET NOW THAT I'D PUSHED HIM OVER THE EDGE, FORCED HIM TO STEP OUTSIDE THE LAW, TRAMPLED ON HIS PRECIOUS MORALITY... I WAS *HEARTSICK*.

YES, WE *WERE* ALIKE, REILLY AND I--AND YES, I WANTED HIM TO *KNOW* THAT.

YOU WORTHLESS DISHEVELLED *WRECK*! YOU *WASTE* OF A HUMAN LIFE!

I WAS *ANGRY*.

YOU!!

WHAT ARE YOU *LOOKING* AT?!

NOTHIN'. I AIN'T LOOKIN' AT *NOTHIN'*!

BUT I REALIZED, IN THAT AWFUL MOMENT, THAT WHAT I'D *REALLY* WANTED WASN'T TO PROVE THAT BEN WAS LIKE *ME*--BUT TO PROVE THAT I...

...WAS LIKE HIM.

YOU'RE A JOKE!

A CARBON COPY OF HUMANITY!

A BADLY-DRAWN CARTOON!

A MAN LIKE YOU HAS NO BUSINESS BEING ALIVE... HAVING HOPES, HAVING DREAMS! NO BUSINESS--

--AT--

N-N-NO... PLEASE, M-MISTER... P-P-PLEASE--!

AS I LET THAT POOR MAN FALL, UNHARMED, TO THE GROUND-- I KNEW THE TIME HAD COME. AFTER FIVE UNENDURABLE YEARS, THE GAME HAD TO END. IT WOULD END--THAT NIGHT: FOR ME...

...AND FOR BEN REILLY.

--EVEN IF THE COPS ARE WATCHING THE PLACE...I SHOULD BE ABLE TO SLIP IN THERE AND GRAB SOME THINGS.

I'VE GOT SOME CASH STASHED AWAY FOR AN EMERGENCY--AND THIS CERTAINLY *QUALIFIES.*

BEN, ARE YOU *SURE?*

WHEN WE WERE TOGETHER... *BEFORE* ...YOU USED TO TALK ABOUT HOW MUCH IT WOULD MEAN TO YOU IF YOU COULD COME *BACK* HERE--

--PICK UP THE THREADS OF THE LIFE YOU LEFT BEHIND.

HOW CAN YOU JUST WALK *AWAY* FROM IT LIKE THIS --NOW THAT YOU HAVE IT ALL *BACK?*

Y'WANNA KNOW WHAT THE *JOKE* OF IT ALL IS? WHATEVER I WAS HOPING TO FIND--

--WHATEVER I EXPECTED TO COME *HOME* TO--

--WAS *LONG GONE* WHEN I *GOT* HERE.

YOU CAN'T *MEAN* THAT. YOU USED TO TALK FOR HOURS ABOUT YOUR FAMILY...YOUR *AUNT.* WHAT WAS HER NAME...?

MAY.

AND YOU'RE RIGHT. AUNT MAY... SHE WAS SO *IMPORTANT* TO ME.

AND AT LEAST I GOT TO *SEE* HER -- EVEN IF I NEVER REALLY HAD A CHANCE TO *TALK* TO HER... TELL HER HOW MUCH SHE --

MAY'S *GONE* -- AND THE PEOPLE I KNEW BEFORE, THE FRIENDS I HAD, ARE EITHER DEAD NOW OR --

--IRRELEVANT.

I'M NOT *PETER PARKER*, JANINE. I HAVEN'T *BEEN* PETER -- FOR A VERY LONG TIME. I'M *BEN REILLY* -- AND THE ONLY THING IN THIS LIFE THAT I NEED --

--IS YOU.

BUT, SWEETHEART -- THERE'S STILL *ONE THING* WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT BEFORE WE GO. BEFORE WE CAN REALLY BEGIN A NEW LIFE TOGETHER --

I KNOW. *SANTA CRUZ*. THE STORY OF HOW I "DIED" --

--AND THEN CAME *BACK* TO YOU.

YOU'RE RIGHT, BEN. IT'S TIME YOU KNEW IT *ALL*.

IF WE'RE *EVER* GOING TO FIND THE HAPPINESS WE'RE BOTH SO DESPERATE FOR --

DINER

--IT WAS TIME HE KNEW.

SANTA CRUZ IS A COLLEGE TOWN: LOTS OF YOUNG PEOPLE, LOTS OF **TRANSIENTS**... WHICH MEANT WE WOULDN'T STICK OUT LIKE A COUPLE OF SORE THUMBS.

WE'D BEEN THERE FOR A FEW MONTHS --PASSING OURSELVES OFF AS YOUNG MARRIEDS NAMED **GEORGE** AND **MARY BAILEY.** (WHAT CAN I SAY? WE WERE BOTH CAPRA-FANATICS.)

BUT AT HOME, IN THE LITTLE APARTMENT WE WERE RENTING ON THE TOP FLOOR OF AN OLD VICTORIAN...

...WE WERE STILL BEN AND JANINE.

...HEY, SWEETIE?

HAVE YOU SEEN MY BLACK JEANS?

THEY'RE WHERE THEY **ALWAYS** ARE: SECOND DRAWER DOWN IN THE BEDROOM DRESSER.

BUT I **LOOKED** THERE, ALREADY.

DID YOU EVER THINK OF **MOVING** SOMETHING?

...I SWEAR TO YOU, SWEETIE, THEY'RE NOT--

YOU WERE ABOUT TO **SAY** SOMETHING?

HOW DO YOU **DO** THAT?

IT'S A **GIRL** THING.

SO--CAN I **HAVE** 'EM?

I DON'T KNOW IF YOU **DESERVE** THEM. IT'S BEEN AT LEAST HALF AN HOUR SINCE YOU TOLD ME YOU **LOVED** ME.

OKAY, OKAY--I **LOVE** YOU... NOW GIMME THE PANTS. I DON'T WANNA BE LATE FOR **WORK**!

STUPID JOB, ANYWAY-- CALLING PEOPLE ON THE PHONE ALL NIGHT LONG, TRYING TO SELL THEM **SEPTIC SYSTEMS.**

HEY, I'M LUCKY I FOUND **THIS.** I'M NOT EXACTLY THE MOST **EMPLOY-ABLE** PERSON IN AMERICA, Y'KNOW.

NOW CAN I **PLEASE** HAVE MY **PANTS**?

OH, DEAR-- THEY SEEM TO HAVE **FLOWN** OUT OF MY HANDS.

C'MON, SWEETIE-- THIS ISN'T THE TIME FOR--

TELL ME YOU LOVE ME.

BUT I JUST DID.

TELL ME LIKE YOU *MEAN* IT.

I LOVE YOU, I LOVE YOU, I **LOVE** YOU. *NOW* GIVE ME MY PANTS.

SURE.

WHEN I'M DONE HAVING MY **WAY** WITH YOU.

BUT I'M GONNA BE LATE FOR **WORK**--

EXTREMELY.

WE NEED THE *MONEY*, JANINE. WE--

NO. BUT IT DOES A TERRIFIC JOB OF PAYING THE *RENT*.

YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY, HANDSOME:

"MONEY CAN'T BUY ME LOVE."

I *LOVE* IT WHEN YOU RESIST ME LIKE THIS.

THAT'S ME. I'M *TOUGH*. YOU CAN'T WEAR *ME* DOWN. I CAN KEEP THIS UP--

--FOR AT *LEAST* ANOTHER THREE SECONDS.

WE'D BEEN ON THE RUN FOR MONTHS, CHANGING IDENTITIES, CHANGING **JOBS**.

BUT, THROUGH IT ALL, WE HELD TIGHT TO EACH OTHER. TO OUR LOVE. AND, FINALLY, IN SANTA CRUZ, IT LOOKED LIKE WE'D FOUND OUR OASIS: A LITTLE PEACE. A QUIET, GENTLE AND PERFECTLY WONDERFUL LIFE.

BUT THAT OASIS...

GET UP.

HUH...?

...TURNED OUT TO BE A *MIRAGE.*

I SAID *GET UP.*

HE STOOD OVER MY BED LIKE A GHOST, LIKE A LIVING NIGHTMARE-- AND, FOR A MOMENT, BEFORE I WAS FULLY AWAKE, I THOUGHT IT WAS THE *MONSTER.*

I THOUGHT IT WAS MY *FATHER,* BACK FROM THE *DEAD.*

WHAT DO YOU *WANT,* KAINE? WHY DON'T YOU LEAVE US ALO--

GET UP-- AND GET DRESSED. *NOW.*

NO--

YES.

WHAT COULD I DO? I THREW ON SOME CLOTHES AND FOLLOWED HIM OUT OF THE HOUSE. HE HAD A CAR WAITING ... AND WE DROVE, IN CHILLING SILENCE, UP THE COAST...

...TO SAN FRANCISCO.

TO THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE.

...YOU KNOW, DON'T YOU, ABOUT THE ONLY WOMAN REILLY LOVED AS MUCH AS HE LOVES *YOU*?

YOU KNOW HOW HIS WORLD WAS DESTROYED-- WHEN ***GWEN STACY*** FELL FROM A BRIDGE LIKE THIS?

GET TO THE *POINT*, KAINE.

I *HATE* THE HAPPINESS REILLY'S FOUND WITH YOU. I HATE YOUR *LOVE* FOR EACH OTHER.

AND I WILL NOT PERMIT IT TO GO ON!

I THINK MY POINT IS *OBVIOUS*.

NO! EVEN *YOU* AREN'T CRUEL ENOUGH TO MAKE HIM GO THROUGH THE SAME TORTURE *AGAIN!* HE'S SUFFERED *ENOUGH!* HE'S--

YES, I WANT HIM TO GO THROUGH IT AGAIN! I WANT HIM TO DIE TEN THOUSAND DEATHS!

AND I'LL SEE YOU DEAD, TOO... ELIZABETH-

--BUT NOT IN SUCH AN-- OBVIOUS WAY.

STAY WITH REILLY AND I SWEAR TO YOU-- I'LL MAKE SURE THE SANTA CRUZ POLICE FIND OUT EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU.

AND NO MATTER HOW FAR YOU RUN... OR HOW FAST... I'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND YOU.

ARMED WITH THE TRUTH.

JUST TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT.

I DON'T SEE ANY REASON TO ACTUALLY KILL YOU. ALL THAT MATTERS IS THAT REILLY THINKS YOU'RE DEAD.

LEAVE HIM, NEVER RETURN-- AND YOUR SECRET REMAINS SAFE.

YOU THINK I GIVE A DAMN ABOUT MY SECRET? ALL I CARE ABOUT IS BEN!

THEN THINK OF BEN. DO WHAT I ASK--AND I SWEAR TO YOU THAT I'LL STOP HUNTING HIM, HOUNDING HIM. YOUR BELOVED WILL LIVE IN PEACE.

WE'RE BOTH SCARRED, JANINE. BOTH FLAWED SPECIMENS, SPIT UPON, REJECTED BY THE WORLD--AND WITH GOOD REASON. FACE THE TRUTH, JANINE--

"HE'S BETTER OFF WITHOUT YOU."

SO I LEFT. SO --I "DIED."

I WROTE IT... WHILE KAINE STOOD OVER MY SHOULDER.

BUT THE NOTE I FOUND THAT NIGHT WHEN I GOT HOME ...THE *SUICIDE* NOTE.

BUT I IDENTIFIED YOUR *BODY*... AFTER THEY PULLED IT OUT OF THE BAY.

YOU IDENTIFIED... A GENETIC *CON-STRUCT*. AN UNLIVING MASS OF CELLS AND TISSUES MADE TO RESEMBLE ME.

JANINE... HOW COULD YOU *DO* IT? HOW COULD YOU *POSSIBLY* BELIEVE THAT I WOULD *EVER* FIND HAPPI-NESS WITHOUT YOU?

AFTER SANTA CRUZ, I HIT *BOTTOM*. IF IT WASN'T FOR *SEWARD TRAINER*, I'D STILL *BE* THERE--

HOW COULD I DO IT? THE TRUTH IS... I COULDN'T.

BUT A FRIGHTENED LITTLE GIRL NAMED ELIZABETH--WHOSE FATHER HAD MADE HER FEEL *DIRTY*...*UNWORTHY* OF LOVE --COULD.

SHE DID IT BECAUSE SHE REFUSED TO BELIEVE THAT BEN COULD EVER FIND JOY WITH SUCH A SHAMEFUL, WORTHLESS CREATURE.

IT WASN'T UNTIL THAT NIGHT, I THINK, THAT ELIZABETH CAME TO UNDERSTAND HOW *WRONG* SHE WAS.

IT'S IN THE *PAST*, JANINE.

LET'S LEAVE IT BURIED.

IN BEN'S ACCEPTANCE, IN HIS FORGIVENESS, SHE FOUND FORGIVENESS FOR A *LIFETIME* OF SINS-- REAL AND *IMAGINED*.

LET'S GO, MY LOVE. LET'S START OUR NEW LIFE TOGETHER.

AND LET'S NEVER LOOK--

IT WAS A NEW BEGINNING.

--BACK...!

CHAK-TOOM!

AND IT WAS THE *END*.

NO, KAINE! NO MORE!

NO MORE!

Whatever compassion I'd felt for Kaine was gone: washed away in the waters of San Francisco Bay.

What he'd done to me... the sheer misery of the months after I'd lost her... was bad enough.

SSTAKK

But he'd used the demons of Janine's childhood... as tools to manipulate her.

And that I could NEVER forgive.

CHROKK!

That may have been the most terrifying night of my life. I was INSANE with rage and grief. COMPLETELY out of control.

SSSSSSS

Janine, Gwen Stacy, five long years wandering the world stripped of my identity.

Uncle Ben, Aunt May, Harry Osborn.

My parents.

CHUD!

All the loss, all the pain of a lifetime came roaring up out of me. And all of it--every body buried, every tear shed--

--WAS BECAUSE OF HIM.

CH

UD!

In that moment, Kaine wasn't just my clone--he was the darkness in my soul made manifest. He was the devil in human form.

And it was time for him to PAY.

CHU

D!

BEN--NO! YOU CAN'T DO THIS!

CAN'T YOU SEE THAT THIS IS WHAT HE WANTS?

HE WANTS YOU TO BECOME LIKE HIM!

HE ALREADY HAS BECOME ME. IN HIS HEART OF HEARTS, HE ALWAYS WAS. AND I... I WAS HIM.

BUT IT'S OVER NOW, BEN. AT LONG LAST-- IT'S OVER.

WHAT DO YOU--?

BOOM.

BOOM!

NEXT: BURNING BRIGHT